I contend that the main reason for this reaction was that there was no grass roots for the group to fall back on. Nothing to whip up among the home folks. Any organization to be strong, must grow UP and not infiltrate from a high level down. Folks are lonely in a National Association. It takes comradeship at home to keep it alive and going.

Purpose of the AHS was to: Stimulate interest in Hibiscus; to screen the nearly 1,000 names which Norman Reasoner, charter and current president, had so laboriously collected, eliminate duplication of names and clarify propagators, colors and other information pertinent to the "Queen."

Another premise was to create a registration service whereby hybridizers might list their new developments and thus protect them in name, etc., for posterity. A sizable number of registrations are now on file in the Society's office in Coral Gables.

A tremendously important step was when President Reasoner appointed a nomenclature committee headed by Mr. Bruce Parnell of Miami. This group has been functioning since last February.

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Then came the formation of component chapters, and herein lies the lifeblood of the group.

They are: The James E. Hendry Chapter - Fort Myers, the first, - then came the Central Florida group at Orlando; next was the Halifax Chapter, at Daytona Beach; the J. K. Brower Chapter, West Palm Beach; and the Louisiana Chapter, Baton Rouge.

Aside from the official shows numerous garden groups staged hibiscus affairs. Here in St. Petersburg the Green Fingers circle of the Garden Club Federation staged the most outstanding propagation display ever put on in Florida. The Lakeland and numerous other communities have saluted the Queen, including Winter Haven and Miami.

I would like to say that we view this progress with humility - we haven't begun to smooth the corners of a Diamond in the Rough, but we do conceed that we have made definite tracks in the sand, and I should like to go on record that this is only the beginning.

With enthusiasm generating on the home front, with friendly rivalry among local chapters, we can't help but continue to grow - for EVERYBODY LOVES HIBISCUS."

- Ruth Stuart Allen
Executive Secretary

We thought you might be interested in this bit of history.

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"Has your wife changed very much since you married her?"
"I'll say she has - my habits, my friends, and my hours."

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"My, how on earth did you come to get so completely intoxicated?" asked the judge.
"I got in bad company, Your Honor. You see, there were four of us. I had a bottle of whiskey and the other three didn't touch the stuff."